

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS.

MONDAY, MAY 29, 1922.

FINANCIAL NEWS

COMMENT

Railroad Labor Board's Decision Has Buoyant Effect on Industrials.

The Railroad Labor Board's recommendation that wages of maintenance of way workers be reduced had a more positive effect upon speculation yesterday than did the freight rate cut last week. It could not be said that the stock market became excited about it. While coal shares, especially those of coal carrying lines, were firm at the start and developed considerable strength afterward, it was the industrial list which stood as the mainstay of business. Petroleum issues were decidedly buoyant, both in the New York Stock Exchange and in outside markets, and there was the familiar demonstration of forceful buying in tobacco, steel and sugar shares. Undoubtedly the market for rails was held in check by knowledge that the Supreme Court might hand down one or two important decisions during the day. Both the Reading and Central Pacific rulings appeared, the latter before the close of trading, and acted to incite some realizing sales, especially reflected in a point decline of Southern Pacific from its best level. Due to the railroad wage finding and the court decisions, the railroad situation was the subject of more discussion than anything in the industrial field. The fact that, despite the prominence of rail matters, industrial stocks continued to advance, carried its suggestion about the public's attitude toward the business outlook. The week end trade news was encouraging in the main, especially in respect to information that steel mills in the Youngstown district were operating at about 80 per cent. of capacity. Activity of that degree indicates that fuel supplies are adequate to the demand.

The \$48,000,000 reduction in the railroad wage schedule was viewed in the financial district as a partial compensation to the carriers for the rate cut prescribed for July 1. But the total by itself, normally, was considered much less important, with the application that the deductions to be made from it. As no more than 35 per cent. of all railroad employees were affected, it was immediately assumed that rulings yet to be made on other classes of workers would reduce the wage outlay by \$100,000,000 more. It remains to be seen, of course, whether or not this estimate is close to actualities. There is, however, the unanswered question whether the employees will accept the decision without objection. As far as the security markets were concerned, there was no reason yesterday for speculative ideas that this last week that, while the equalizing of wage and rate cuts is devoutly hoped for, still the major influence in the market is vested in fear of expanding traffic.

An immediate product of the Supreme Court's decision that the Southern Pacific's ownership of the Central Pacific stock was an abuse of power, collateral trust. That issue is secured by deposit of Central Pacific stock. A dissolution of the Southern Pacific's ownership would probably entail the retirement of the bonds. The court's findings jarred somewhat the reconciled speculative ideas that this is to be a year of railroad mergers, but, as a matter of fact, no deductions are to be made from action in Government stock, which was a year ago applied to a specific and not to general conditions of competition. The lower court has some more work to do on the Reading segregation plan before it is completed.

The hardening of call money from 4 to 4 1/2 per cent, implied no change in the money situation, but was likely to increase the flow of funds from the interior to New York.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

Table with columns for currency types (Sterling, Franc, etc.) and exchange rates.

THE CONTINENT.

Table listing various European and international stocks and their prices.

THE SOUTH AMERICA.

Table listing various South American stocks and their prices.

THE FAR EAST.

Table listing various Far East stocks and their prices.

CUSTOM HOUSE RECEIPTS.

Receipts for duties at the Custom House yesterday were \$83,911.43, of which \$127,212 was for merchandise withdrawn from bonded warehouses and \$511,703 for recent importations.

Main stock market table with columns for stock names, prices, and changes. Includes sections for 1922, 1921, and 1920 data.

TOPICS OF WALL STREET.

Good Guessing on Reading Ruling. The rather meager information about the Supreme Court's ruling in the Reading case which reached Wall Street late yesterday afternoon convinced recent buyers of the speculative proffered stocks that their speculative reasoning had been correct. The first preferred advanced 5/8 points and the second preferred 3/4 points last week, to which the latter added a fraction yesterday. The lower court's action to reduce certain aspects of mortgage readjustment, which seemed to indicate that holders of the preferred issues would have their side presented again.

Three Company Steel Merger.

The big steel consolidation which started off with seven companies lined up at the barrier has been reduced to three contenders in the home stretch. The program includes the Republic Iron and Steel, the Midvale Steel and Ordnance and the Inland companies. These corporations have a bonded debt of approximately \$200,000,000 with 3,200,000 shares of common and 250,000 shares of preferred stock. The bidding up of Republic common stock yesterday to a high price of 7 1/2 suggested that traders were seeking to profit by forecasts that the shares would go into the merger at about 8. At the same time Midvale was rather wobbly around 4 1/2, closing with a fractional decline at 4 1/2. The reported merger figure for Midvale is 4 1/2. Definite news about the program is expected on Wednesday or Thursday.

Coca Cola's Advance.

The sight of Coca Cola stock at 6 1/2 yesterday, a new high price, drew a sharp contrast with the hard row the shares found to travel when they were put on the market late in 1919. Coming out in the tail end of the last big boom it was not surprising that the stock was slow in being placed, when the company, like many large consumers, found itself with contracts for exceedingly high priced sugar in the next year. The shares slipped down from around 40 to 18. Last year the range was 16 to 43 1/2. The recent buying has been based on reports that net earnings were running at the rate of \$10 a share a year, which, if proved true by actual figures, should be beneficial to the surplus account, whatever happens to dividends.

Great Strength of Standard Oils.

The Imperial Oil Company, Ltd., of Canada, owns about 80 per cent. of the International Petroleum Company's shares, a situation which naturally has been a source of interest to investors. The other begins to move. Imperial Oil yesterday shot upward 10 1/2 points, surpassing this year's previous maximum by a large margin. International shares followed along with a 2 1/2 point advance, reaching a high position for 1922. Some credence was given to a rumor that the Imperial Company soon would offer to buy in the open market the International shares, but this was not needed to explain the movement for many of the Standard Oil group were strong. Standard's bid reached 122 and that at the final quotation of 123 1/2 was 3 1/2 points higher than on Saturday. Standard of Kentucky went to 9 1/2, and even though almost a point was lopped off near the end of the day the net gain was 4 1/2 points.

Steel Corporation's Dividend.

Predictions that the Steel Corporation will earn its common stock dividend in the current quarter seem to be justified by all the known figures, although these figures are not yet final. The net income available for interest, depreciation, sinking fund and dividends was \$8,565,000. The pro rated charges per month before dividends, on the basis of the March quarter, are \$1,140,833. This sum, deducted from the March rate of income, would leave \$2,886,000 for dividends per month, or \$11,655,000 for three months. The share of common dividends for a quarter are almost exactly \$1,000,000 more than this total, but April and May brought mild activity as great, if not greater, than in March, at higher prices, and the June result is expected to exceed those of the two preceding months.

Railroad Buying Continues.

As far as car builders are concerned the railroad purchases of new equipment are solving the unemployment problem. The American Railway Foundry Company has received orders for 4,430 cars, totaling several million dollars. Those orders will make it necessary for the company to increase its working force 60 per cent. at Madison, Ill., in July or August, according to a dispatch. In the last week the American Car and Foundry Company of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Company. Other orders received were: -600 refrigerator cars from the American Refrigerator Transportation Company; 500 box cars from the Burlington Railroad and 480 ballast cars from three other railroads. The company is engaged in repair work, which will not be completed until summer.

Wage Ruling Pleases Rail Men.

A more optimistic view of the transportation outlook was voiced yesterday by railroad executives as a result of the Railroad Labor Board's action in cutting the wages of maintenance of way workers by about \$48,000,000 a year. When the carriers began their recent move toward wage reductions their idea was to eliminate the remaining 10 per cent. of the 2 1/2 per cent. general increase of 1920. About 2 1/2 per cent. was wiped out last July. The present cut in the pay of the maintenance of way men puts the general increase of 1920 at 100 per cent. The last general increase, beginning July 1 their maximum wage will be 35 cents an hour, against the 3 1/2 cents which was being paid at the time of the general increase in August of 1920. In the opinion of rail officials the present decision augurs well for the roads in other pending wage applications, covering virtually all other classes of railroad workers. Talk in some quarters was that employees in train and engine service might get off with lighter cuts, because of their failure to share in the increase that were made in the period of Federal control.

Rails Move Up.

Announcement of the Railroad Labor Board's decision was the signal for a bullish demonstration in the transportation stocks, which was centered in the class of rail road stocks. The leadership lay with Baltimore and Ohio and Norfolk and Western, which reported excellent earnings for April. Virtually all the active standards are now priced at or above their 1921 levels. The leadership of the roads generally were more satisfactory than was expected during the coal strike, which started on April 1. Freight revenues for railroads were indicated clearly that much of the loss in coal tonnage was made up by increasing traffic in miscellaneous and merchandise freight.

Money Advances.

Call money rates again reflected a growing demand from borrowers and advanced to 4 1/2 per cent. after opening and renewing in the Stock Exchange at 4 per cent. Little activity was displayed in the time money market; short term loans were purchased at 4 1/2 per cent. and money for six months loaned at 4 1/2 per cent. At those figures there are apparently large amounts of money to be lent.

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Advertisement for Reinhart & Bennet, Members N. Y. Stock Exchange, located at 52 Broadway, New York.

Advertisement for 'Our Manual Definitions of Bonds and Stocks', which is useful to both Bond and Stock Buyers.

Advertisement for COUPONS, Payable at Our Office, June 1, 1922, from Athens Ry. & Elec. Co.

Advertisement for Lincoln Gas & Electric Light Co., Toledo, Light & Power Co.

Advertisement for Watauga Power Co., 1st Iss. 1922, and Henry L. Doherty & Co., 60 Wall Street, New York.

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Advertisement for The Importers and Traders National Bank of New York, listing capital and surplus.

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